GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2701
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2017
Compensation to Farmersâ€™ Family
Butta Smt. Renuka;Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.;Reddy Shri A.P. Jithender;Sathyabama Smt. V.;Subbareddy Shri Yerram Venkata

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance/compensation to the deceased farmer's family to stop further loss of life and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is showing laxity in disbursing compensation to the kin of farmers who committed suicide due to distress in agriculture sector, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the time by which the Government would disburse compensation to the kin of farmers through State Governments;

(d) whether NITI Aayog has suggested to put forth a strategy to address the issues of farmers suicide and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the Government has formed any task-force or fact finding teams to find out the true cause of suicide by farmers in the country and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the said task forces, so far, in this regard; and

(f) whether the Government has collaborated with the Health Ministry to formulate programmes to address the mental health issues the farmers face given the high rate of farmers suicide and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) to (c): State Governments provide relief to families that face farmer suicides. As per information available from the States, the details of relief etc. being provided are as follows:

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â€¢ State Government of Maharashtra gives Ex-gratia relief of Rs.1.00 lakh to the heirs of the deceased farmer. The three norms of eligibility for ex-gratia are crop failure, indebtedness and harassment due to inability to pay agriculture related loans.

â€¢ The Punjab Government had constituted committee for providing compensation to victims' family to the extent of Rs. 3.00 lakh. It has also introduced "Punjab Relief of Agriculture Indebtedness Bill" which will provide relief to the farmers from debt trap.

â€¢ Government of Andhra Pradesh is providing Rs.5.00 lakh compensation to the family members of the deceased farmers. Out of which Rs.1.50 lakh is one time settlement to wipe off loans/ liabilities and Rs.3.50 lakh towards rehabilitation of the family members.

â€¢ The Government of Telangana has enhanced Ex-gratia from Rs.1.00 lakh to Rs.5.00 lakh to the family of the deceased farmer, towards rehabilitation of the family and has enhanced loan settlement ceiling limit from Rs.50 thousand to Rs.1.00 lakh to the persons entitled, as a one time settlement and to wipe off all the liabilities on the part of deceased families of the farmers.

â€¢ In Karnataka an amount of Rs.1.00 lakh has been given to each of the deceased family from 2003-04 to 2014-15. From 01.04.2015 an amount of Rs.5.00 lakh relief is provided to each of the deceased family and the children of the deceased will get free education up to post graduation including hostel facilities.

(d): The Government is aware of the roadmap outlined by NITI Aayog for reforms in agriculture sector and doubling farmers income by 2022 to address the issues of farmer suicide. The Roadmap presents a quantitative framework for doubling farmers' income which has identified seven sources of growth. These are:

(i) increase in productivity of crops.
(ii) increase in production of livestock.
(iii) improvement in efficiency of input use (cost saving).
(iv) increase in crop intensity.
(v) diversification towards high value crops.
(vi) improved price realization by farmers.

(vii) shift of cultivators to non-farm jobs.
This Policy paper was shared with the States/UTs for devising a relevant strategy so as to realize the goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022. Apart from the above, the Department has also constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee for recommending suitable strategy.

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(e): A study titled 'Farmer Suicides: An all India Study' has been conducted during 2016-17 by the Government to ascertain various reasons for the growing number of farmers suicide in the country. This Pan-India study was carried out in 13 major suicide prone states namely: Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka. The study was assigned to Agriculture Research Unit, ISEC Bangalore and was completed with the association of the Agro-Economic Research Centres. The reference year of the study was decided as the agriculture year 2015-16 (June, 2015 − May, 2016).

(f): The Government is supporting implementation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) under National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in 444 districts of the country for detection, management and treatment of mental disorders/illness. The DMHP has been restructured to include additional components like suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counseling in schools and colleges. Support is also provided for Central/ State Mental Health Authorities, Research and Training and for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities. States concerned are requested to submit Project implementation Plans (PIPs) for various health initiatives including mental health for implementation in their States. Already all states have been requested by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to prepare a detailed action plan for addressing issue of suicides by farmers duly analyzing districts wherein such cases are coming and submit the same also to Ministry.

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